

### **IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer (1), ~~including~~ comprising an insert housing (2) with a housing interior (5) in which a valve member (6) is located which ~~forms a contact on~~ contacts a valve seat (7) in a closed position thereof and which can be moved against a restoring force from the closed position into an open position, wherein the housing interior (5) has, in a movement zone of the valve member (6), an interior section (A), which has a greater open cross section relative to an outer periphery of the valve member, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein for play-free guidance of the valve member (6) there is a spring-elastic valve member guide (9), which is effective between the valve member (6) and a housing inner wall surrounding the interior section (A).

2. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the valve member guide (9) is effective at least in the movement zone of the valve member (6) in proximity to the valve seat.

3. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer according to claim 1, wherein ~~or 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ the valve member guide (9) includes at least two, ~~preferably more than two,~~ spring arms (10), which contact the housing inner wall and/or the valve member (6).

4. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer according to claim 3, wherein ~~one of claims 1 to 3,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ the spring arms (10) are formed on an inside ~~of~~ of the insert housing (2) and are arranged preferably with free spring arm ends thereof in a region of the valve seat (7).

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5. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer according to claim 3, wherein one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the spring arms (10) are ~~formed on~~ connected to the valve member (6) ~~or similarly held on the valve member (6)~~ and contact the housing inner wall with free spring arm ends thereof.

6. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer according to claim 5, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the spring arms (10) point in a direction away from the valve seat (7) with the free spring arm ends.

7. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer according to claim 3, wherein one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the spring arms (10) are spaced apart from each other uniformly in a peripheral direction of the backflow preventer (1).

8. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer according to claim 3, wherein one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that a ring seal (11), which is effective between the valve member (6) and the valve seat (7) in the closed position, is provided on ~~the valve member~~ a periphery of the valve member and ~~[[that]]~~ the spring arms (10) are arranged on a side of the ring seal (11) facing away from the valve seat (7).

9. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer according to claim 1, wherein one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the valve member (6) has on a side facing away from the valve seat (7) a guide rod (12), which is guided displaceably in a guide opening (13) of the insert housing (2).

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10. (Currently amended) Backflow preventer according to claim 1, wherein ~~one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ the backflow preventer (1) comprises a sanitary backflow preventer, ~~which can be used preferably in~~ adapted for insertion into a water line or [[in]] a sanitary water discharge armature.